

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Circuit A circuit for a lamp, comprising:

[[-]] a first sub-circuit for connecting to mains voltage of a predetermined frequency for rectifying the mains voltage;

[[-]] a second sub-circuit connected to the first sub-circuit for providing an alternating current required for the lamp; and

[[-]] a control circuit which is connected to the first and the second sub-circuit and which controls the frequency of the alternating current subject to a varying component of the mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit.

2. (Currently Amended) Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The circuit of claim 1, wherein the first sub-circuit comprises a

filter with one or more coils and capacitors, a rectifier circuit, an (electronic) switch and a buffer capacitor that is coupled to its output terminals.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The~~
circuit of claim 1, wherein the second sub-circuit comprises a converter circuit for stabilizing direct current and a switching device for providing a square-wave current of a desired level of ~~for instance +/- 0.8 A for normal operation of the lamp.~~

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The~~
circuit of claim 1, wherein the control circuit is connected on one side to ~~an (electronic) a~~ switch in the first sub-circuit and on the other side to one or more ~~(electronic) switches in the a~~ switching device, so that the phase and/or frequency of the lamp current controlled by the switching device is controlled subject to a varying component of for instance 50 Hz variation of the predetermined frequency of the mains voltage or a multiple thereof ~~(in the USA and Japan 60 Hz or a multiple thereof).~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The~~
circuit of claim 1, wherein the frequency of the alternating
current provided by the second sub-circuit is synchronized with a
~~varying component variation of the predetermined frequency~~ of the
mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The~~
circuit of claim 1, wherein the control circuit controls the phase
of the alternating current provided by the second sub-circuit such
that this is the same as the phase of a ~~the~~ varying component of
the rectified mains voltage supplied by the first sub-circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The~~
circuit of claim 1, wherein the second sub-circuit comprises an
igniter for generating voltage pulses across the lamp so as to
ignite the lamp.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The~~
circuit of claim 1, wherein the rectified mains voltage is in the
order of magnitude of 400 V and the voltage across the lamp is in

the order of magnitude of 100 V to 150 V.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Circuit for a lamp as claimed in The~~
circuit of claim 1, wherein the varying component of the rectified
mains voltage has a peak-to-peak value in the order of magnitude of
10-100 V.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method A method~~ for operating a lamp,
comprising the ~~steps-acts~~ of:

[[-]] rectifying a supplied mains voltage and bringing it to a
desired voltage level; and

[[-]] generating an alternating current;

wherein the frequency of the alternating current is controlled
subject to a varying component of the rectified mains voltage.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Method for operating a lamp as claimed~~
in The method of claim 10, wherein the phase of the alternating
current is equal to the phase of the varying component of the
rectified mains voltage.

12. (New) The circuit of claim 3, wherein the desired level is ± 0.8 A for normal operation of the lamp.